

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink, which comprises:

irradiating a linear laser beam onto a surface of a foam layer created on a malt alcoholic drink;

imaging a laser line reflected on the surface of the foam layer by an imaging device to obtain an image of the laser line; and

obtaining edge information of the laser line from the image of the laser line to calculate a particle diameter of foam in the foam layer based on the edge information.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the linear laser beam is obliquely irradiated onto the surface of the foam layer, and
the laser line is imaged from a position in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the foam layer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink, which comprises:

a laser light source that irradiates a linear laser beam onto a surface of a foam layer created on a malt alcoholic drink;

an imaging device that images a laser line reflected on the surface of the foam layer to obtain an image of the laser line; and

a calculating device that obtains edge information of the laser line from the image of the laser line to calculate a particle diameter of foam in the foam layer based on the edge information.

Claim 4 (New): A method for measuring a particle diameter of foam as claimed in claim 1, wherein said edge information comprises information which determines a concavity and convexity of foam particles on edge portions of said laser line so as to determine the particle diameter of the foam particles and the number of foam particles.

Claim 5 (New): An apparatus for measuring a particle diameter of foam on a malt alcoholic drink as claimed in claim 3, wherein said edge information comprises information which determines concavity and convexity of foam particles on edge portions of said laser line so as to determine the particle diameter of the foam particles and the number of foam particles.